

In the claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A process for identifying bacterial colonization factors in a culture of enterotoxigenic E. coli bacteria comprising the steps of:

1) suspending bacteria in an isotonic solution, followed by heating for 15 to 30 minutes at a temperature sufficient to release the colonization factors into solution,

2) centrifuging the product obtained in step 1, the discarding the precipitate obtained after centrifugation while retaining the supernatant,

3) adding sufficient ammonium sulfate to the supernatant obtained in step 2 to obtain a concentration of 13% to 50% saturation of ammonium sulfate until a precipitate is seen,

4) centrifuging the product of step 3 containing the precipitate to pelletize the precipitate,

5) dissolving the pellet obtained in step 4 in water and dialyzing to remove ammonium sulfate and other small molecules and retaining the material remaining inside the dialysis membrane,

6) drying the product retained in the dialysis membrane in step 5 to obtain dried colonization factor,

7) solubilizing the dried colonization factor obtained in step 6 by first dissolving in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol, then adding a volatile acid in aqueous solution to provide solubilized colonization factor,

8) subjecting solution containing solubilized colonization factor obtained in step 7 to mass spectrometry to determine mass, and comparing mass of proteins found therein with mass of known colonization factors.

2. (Original) A method of solubilizing colonization factor comprising the steps of

1) dissolving the colonization factor in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol, then

2) adding the acidified aqueous solution which has been acidified with a volatile acid to the composition obtained in step 1.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) A method of claim 2 wherein the volatile acid is acetic acid.

5. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein, in step 1, the bacteria in isotonic solution is heated for about 20 minutes at about 65 °C.

6. (Currently amended) A method of claim 1 wherein the CF colonization factor is solubilized before subjection to mass spectrometry by dissolving in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol followed by addition of an acid in aqueous solution.

7. (Original) A method of claim 1 wherein, in step 8, the solution is scanned at m/z 1400 to m/z 2500.

8. (Canceled).

9. (New) A method for identifying at least one bacterial colonization factor of enterotoxigenic *E. coli* which comprises the following steps in the following order:

- 1) obtaining the colonization factor;
- 2) solubilizing the colonization factor by dissolving the colonization factor in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol;
- 3) adding a solution of volatile acid to the solubilized colonization factor of step 2 to obtain a product;
- 4) subjecting the product of step 3 to mass spectrometry to determine the mass of the colonization factor; and
- 5) comparing the mass determined in step 4 with the mass of at least one known colonization factor.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the colonization factor is dissolved in 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol to a concentration of about 10 µM to about 20 µM.

11. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the volatile acid is acetic acid.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the acetic acid solution was added to bring the concentration to 5 μ M to 10 μ M.

13. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the product is scanned m/z 1400 to m/z 2500.

In the Abstract:

Please enter the Abstract enclosed herewith.